THE TENNESSEE FARMER.

"How much more delightful to an undebauched mind is the task of making improvements on the earth, than all the vain glory which can be acquired from ravaging it, by the most uninterrupted career of conquests."—WASHINGTON.

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Communications.

STAPLES. TRENCH PLOUGHING OR BEDDING.

Mr. Editor:

SIR:—In a late number of the Farmer, 'A Subscriber' asserts, as a conceded fact, that the surface of the ground throughout Tennessee is generally, too uneven, rolling or broken, to admit the profitable cultivation of corn. That the climate is too cold for cotton, and too warm for wheat and grass; and yet recommends the culture of the mulberry, the sugar beet and the vine, as if these could be grown successfully without exposing the soil to the same loss by washing rains, as is experienced by the corn grower. Now, sir, I agree with your subscriber, that there is a manifest propriety in, and even necessity for the experiment he proposes, am satisfied that silk may become a staple article, and have some reason to hope the sugar beet may succeed beyond our present expectations. The production of the vine may also be very profitable in certain localities, but some of the choice varieties in our gardens do not mature the fruit, which before it ripens is subject to spot and drop off. Besides it may be matter of inquiry whether the making of wine may or may not have a tendency to increase the consumption of stimulants, and whether we have not already a full supply of beverages, of a more stimulating quality. If your subscriber had told us all the necessary process of manuring, ploughing, harrowing and bedding, planting and cultivating his staple articles, he would also have shown that this same preparation and tending would have been quite sufficient, on most of our lands, to double our grain and grass crops—and he might have shown also, that many of the root crops leave the ground in better condition for wheat (in some countries,) than any other preparation—that the grasses prepare the ground for corn, and the latter for oats and grass.

East Tennessee is probably destined to be a great manufacturing country. Of course, the home demand for provisions must increase in proportion to the abstraction of labor from agricultural pursuits, and all our cultivated grounds and a great deal of our mountain lands are well adapted to the cultivation of grain or grass crops, when the soil is naturally rich, or so improved as to make any other tillage profitable.

I think it quite probable that some of the grasses may be grown to good advantage (for hay or pasturage) in mulberry orchards, after the trees have attained to their fifth or sixth year. Thus making a double profit from the ground, and conducing more than anything else to the independence of those who embark largely in the silk business.—The beet culture must naturally tend to the deepening of the soil, and with the necessary manuring, be the better preparation for at least some of the grain crops, (thus, also the manufacturer of sugar may advantageously cultivate his own bread stuffs,) and may doubtless be introduced in Middle and West Tennessee, perhaps more successfully than in this end of the State.

I will now remind your readers of the manner of trenching or bedding, as practised to great advantage in the hilly parts of old Virginia, and perhaps with equal success in other parts also. The method is, in rolling ground, to begin at the foot of the hill, and run a furrow in such direction, whether it be crooked or straight, as that it shall be so near level that water will not run swift enough in it to make a gully, (some even take the trouble to use a level in laying off the first furrow,) then fill it up and bed with two fur-

rows from each side. This makes a bed of about four feet and a trench of one foot wide the succeeding beds, are made in like manner, parallel to the first, unlesss the hill is irregular, in which case it may be necessary to make short beds, or to change the direction in order that each bed may be level from one end to the other, and five feet apart from centre to centre—(and although there may be short rows, in different parts of the field, there need be no loss of ground, a careful ploughman can turn his horse at the end of a short row without damage to the crops.)

This work should be done in the fall or winter, particularly if a green crop, or coat of manure is to be ploughed in, but it is also the best method of breaking up corn ground, in the spring. Shortly before planting a harrow should be passed lengthwise on the beds, which should then be opened by a furrow in the centre, and if spring manuring is intended, the manure may be spread in this furrow, and the corn dropped on it at about one foot distance, and at the proper season singled, or thinned to one stalk in twelve or eighteen inches, which will leave from six to eight thousand plants to the acre, whereas to plant four feet each way and two stalks in a hill will give about five thousand, four hundred, and the corn when grown up will be more crowded than that in the five foot drills. I am told by an experienced cultivator, that two ploughmen will make more corn on the foregoing plan of bedding, harrowing, &c., than three equally dexterous can do, who plant in hills. There can be no doubt that hilly ground which has been carefully bedded, will retain more moisture, and that moisture be more equally distributed, than in the usual method of flushing or breaking up.—Consequently where there is the largest deposit of water in the earth, other circumstances being equal, the crop will there best bear the drought of summer. Whether the bedding of flat lands may be advantageous in this country, is, I suppose not yet proven, but the throwing up in the fall or winter of wet land, or such as incline to run into mortar, must doubtless render them more easily cultivated, and increase their fertility, and the more so if long manure, or rubbish is turned in for under draining. H.

SILK WORMS.

Mr. Editor:

I had from time to time intended submitting for the "Farmer," some observations on the culture of Silk, with which I have been making some experiments for several years but I find that subject receives its full proportion of attention in the Farmer; yet there are some results of my experiments, that I have not seen noticed by others; I have for several seasons raised worms on the mulberry trees, considerably larger, than any I ever raised in the house; thereby demonstrating (in my opinion) that the careful attention to "temperature," enjoined by old writers on the subject, is entirely unnecessary, and further, that worms cannot be *over fed*, if they are fed regularly. Again, by repeatedly feeding different parcels of worms, in the same room, and on leaves of the white, and the common mulberry, also by raising worms on the two kinds of tree, I have become satisfied that worms thrive better, are more healthy, and grow larger, fed on the white mulberry leaves, than those fed on the leaves of the common kind; though I believe there is no difference in the silk. But I would not be understood to advise raising worms on the tree, they are subject to too many accidents.—They are destroyed by ants, spiders, bugs of two kinds, birds, &c., and they are very liable to fall off of the tree, and will scarcely ever regain it without help. Scarcely one in one hundred will escape all accidents, and come to maturity. Almost any kind of a shelter will answer, (except a close room,) so they are secure from mice and ants, and have sufficient room. Close rooms and crowded shelters are fatal to the silk worm. A. D.

Wolf River, Feb. 2, 1838.

MIGNONETTE.

If you have a foot of ground under your window to spare, sow it in this modest little flower; it will scent your whole house with its delightful perfumes, and gladden your eye with its unpretending blossom.

For the Tennessee Farmer.

TENNESSEE AGRICULTURE—NO. II.

Mr. Editor:

I resume my pen, (the earliest opportunity) to give you another number upon Tennessee Agriculture. In my last, I took a brief retrospect of that subject, and adverted, in a few general remarks, to the impropriety of our citizens raising either cotton or tobacco as articles of traffic; which long have been staples in Tennessee. In my present number I shall treat upon the same articles more in detail.

Cotton was introduced, many years ago, into this State, and large quantities have been annually produced and shipped ever since, particularly in Middle and West Tennessee. Many farmers have invested most of their means in the production of this article, and have regularly kept their whole force engaged in its culture; and in most instances have found it *a down hill business.* In tracing the history of this plant, from its earliest introduction into the country, up to the present time we find it has declined in production from 25 to 50 pr cent. to the acre. Take our lands throughout the cotton-growing regions of the State, and we no where find them averaging more than half the quantity they formerly did. In addition to that, the quantity which is produced is generally *several per cent. lower in price* than Southern cotton *of no better quality.* Can any country raise cotton under such disadvantageous circumstances? I appeal to past experience to say. Tennessee is too far north for cotton, Cotton rarely suits the regions of snow and ice. It is hardly raised to much advantage north of the 35th degree of latitude. In the regions bordering on the tropics, is where it finds the most congenial climate. This State does not therefore suit it, lying as it does between 35 and 36° 36′ north latitude. Planters who attempt to cultivate cotton here, have to encounter many adverse circumstances. Their crops are frequently nipt by the spring and autumnal frosts. Many of them have been constrained on this account, to abandon raising it, and have sold their lands at reduced prices, and moved to the South. In short, all the efforts that have been made, to cultivate cotton in this State, *have been contrary to the laws of nature,* consequently, as they ought to be, abortive. Add to all this, cotton is very impoverishing, in its nature, to soil—the culture of which, if continued, will result in our fertile soil finding its way *into the Gulf of Mexico.* We should therefore unhesitatingly abandon raising it. If we do not, it will soon impoverish us.

Having finished my remarks on cotton, I shall proceed to the consideration of tobacco, which is the next in order. This product is tolerably well adapted to our soil and climate; but its cultivation is of no intrinsic value to the community. It is very fluctuating in price, besides soil impoverishing in its nature; and upon a full comparison of its advantages and disadvantages, I am constrained to believe the latter outweigh the former. In tobacco regions the people are generally poor and hard pressed, for the obvious reason, that when that article commands a good price, they almost all of them, flock to raising it; devote themselves almost exclusively to its production; neglect raising many of the necessaries of subsistence; raise scarcely a sufficiency of any kind of produce; make large calculations upon the proceeds of their tobacco, and run greatly in debt upon those calculations—when suddenly the article falls in price, and depreciates to almost nothing, which disables them from paying their debts, and debars them from the means of purchasing the articles of which they stand in need.

The foregoing description I believe to be a true mirror of tobacco raising, at least in Middle Tennessee. It is fully confirmed by our experience for the last several years. For further illustration and confirmation of my position, I will give a parallel between our actual case and the one I have described above. In the years of 1835–6, there were several counties in Middle Tennessee, in which a majority of the citizens devoted themselves almost wholly and solely to the cultivation of tobacco, especially in those counties

ordering on Cumberland river. What was the consequence?

The people went largely in debt upon the strength of their tobacco, neglecting the raising of almost all the necessaries of subsistence; bought their pork &c., of those who raised it, at an enormous high price, say pork from 5 to 6 dollars per cwt., and every thing else in proportion, when suddenly and unexpectedly in the spring of '37, tobacco declined in price to almost *nothing*. What a dilemma the tobacco raisers were left in! Greatly indebted to the merchant, the mechanic, &c., without the means of subsistence and unable to buy them from others—whereas those who raised their own pork, bread stuffs, &c., had ample means of subsistence besides what they sold Alas for tobacco raising!

The foregoing articles, cotton and tobacco have constituted chief articles of Tennessee husbandry—they have been fully tried and found wanting. It is time for us to change them—and try something else. A good system of husbandry will develope the natural resources of a country, and impart prosperity to the whole community. Cotton and tobacco have long been leading articles of Tennessee husbandry and yet the resources of the state are not half developed nor are our citizens generally prosperous. Let us then try another system and if it does not better our condition, I will garanty it will not worst it.

In a future number I will advert to the sev commodities proposed to be introduced as improvements in the agriculture of this State.

In the mean time, Mr. Editor, I must bid you adieu for another moon.

Respectfully, CINCINNATUS.

Wilson county, Ten., March, 1838.

Mr. Editor.

SIR:—I would thank you to re-publish as soon as convenient the remedy for the cure of the murrain, inserted in your paper (I think) some time last year, Col. Burten and Mr. Lyttle informed me a few days ago, that it had been satisfactorily tested and had proved effectual, in every instance. Mr. Lyttle had cured two of his own cattle and had thus saved *by your paper*, $30 perhaps.

In the course of about 5 years, I have lost upwards of $400 worth of cattle—indeed, Sir, such is the destruction of cattle with us, by that fatal pestilence that it is common for a man to say if he can keep up his stock, by the natural increase, he is satisfied. I thought I had tried all the remedies spoken of, (for they are various) but all to no purpose. Mr. Lyttle has promised me a receipt which I hope to procure in a few days. *That simple receipt*, if as effectual, as now said and believed, is worth one hundred years subscription to your valuable paper. It should be inserted at least, once in six months for the benefit of new subscribers.

Should I have occasion again to try the receipt you shall hear the result.

I am now giving my cattle sulphur plentifully as a preventative. I have lost only one since I commenced the sulphur, the last fall.

The people in this county say, that the murrain is caused by the stubble cane—or in their words, by the "wearing out of the cane."—What think you of this? My experience does not confirm the supposition; I believe I have lost more than a comparative number of cattle. Some try to account for it, by saying that mine are blooded cattle, having bought a number of such cattle in Middle Tennessee, but my experience does not confirm that supposition for all die, whether imported or native.—To conclude, sir, I was born a *farmer* and *grazier* and a *despiser of the culture of cotton* though now a *cotton planter*. Could your paper change or be instrumental in changing the aspect of our country in the culture of our lands, I should hail *it thrice welcome* and *you the great benefactor of the W. District.*

Yours truly. H. J. A.

Toulon, March 6th, 1838.

WATER PROOF BOOTS AND SHOES.

From having for several years experienced its efficacy, we recommend the following composition, to render boots and shoes impervious to water, with the single remark, that it is enjoined, among the primary rules of health, to *"keep the feet warm."* The composition is: Tallow, half a pound; hog's lard, four ounces; turpentine, new bees' wax, and olive oil, each two ounces. Melt the materials together by a gentle heat, and rub with the mixture the boots or shoes, upper and under leather, the night before they are wanted. The better way is, to give the boots or shoes two or three coatings of the composition, at intervals, before they are worn at all. We have been days in snow and water, in boots thus prepared, without the least inconvenience to the feet.

He who gives speedily to the needy, gives twice.

From the Franklin Farmer.

TURNIP SEED.

Mr. Editor.—Being at the house of a neighbor the other evening, and the conversation turning on agricultural subjects, he communicated an opinion in reference to the frequent failure of the turnip crops in Kentucky, which, from its source and the experiments on which it was founded, is at least entitled to the consideration of farmers. He attributed the frequent failure of that crop, most generally to the character of the seed sown. Among those who merely cultivate a little patch of ground for turnips as a winter vegetable, it is a pretty general custom either to beg the seed from one (and often more than one) neighbor, or set out turnips in the spring for the purpose of procuring them; and indeed, this mode of raising the seed is almost universally practised. The seed thus raised, in the opinion of my friend, though they may germinate well, will not often produce good turnips; and he thinks that the walnut sized crops that so often vexatiously disappoint the farmer and gardener, are invariably the product of this sort of seed. He insists that the turnips from which seed are taken, should never be pulled; but allowed to remain in the ground all the winter, protected by covering from the frost. In proof of the correctness of his opinion, he stated the following experiment: He procured two packages each of the seed from the turnips which remained in the ground all winter and from the turnips set out in the spring. He saved one package of each description in the same patch and each of the other packages in a separate bed. All came up well; but, the crop in both instances from the seed of the turnips set out in the spring, were no larger than a walnut, while the other was of the usual size. What is the *rationale* of this matter or whether the opinion of my friend be true at all, or the result he obtained be a mere accident, I am wholly unable to decide; but certain it is, he is an intelligent and practical farmer and his opinions on agricultural subjects merit attention. I should be glad to know the views of others on the subject. My neighbor also condemns the practice of setting out cabbage plants in the spring for seed; and insists they should be allowed to remain all winter in the ground, protected from frost.

A LOVER OF THE GARDEN.

To-day ought to be the disciple of yesterday.

One ungratetul man injures all that are in distress.

From the Yankee Farmer.

THE GRAIN WORM.—THIRTY DOLLARS PREMIUM.

"Wheat is, in many parts of the country subject to injury from an insect or worm, whose appearance is comparatively recent, and whose habits are not well ascertained. He is making dreadful havoc in the wheat regions, producing in many cases, an entire destruction of extensive fields of the most promising appearance, and has advanced at the rate of about forty miles a year. The same insect, it is believed, has attacked barley, rye, and oats, with alarming success. The cultivation of barley has on this account been abandoned in some parts of this State, (Massachusetts) and so has the cultivation of wheat in what have heretofore been deemed some of the most productive wheat regions in New York."

The above is from the Rev. Henry Colman. Other writers have spoken of the great ravages of this insect, and thousands of farmers have sowed in hope and rejoiced in the promise of their grain fields, but in harvest instead of a rich reward for their industry, they have reaped nothing. Agricultural Societies have solicited the best information on this subject, and many experiments, have been tried, and remedies recommended, but none have been made known, on which farmers confidently rely. The insects have extended their ravages far and wide, and whole districts of many hundred thousand acres of the most promising grain have been destroyed.

This subject is of the highest importance, not only to farmers, but to the whole community, and further experiments are necessary, in order, if possible, that a perfect preventative or security may be discovered, as it would be of incalculable worth to the country: and for the purpose of stimulating to fresh inquiries, and calling forth the best information that can possibly be obtained on this subject, we hereby offer a premium of THIRTY DOLLARS to ANY PERSON who shall produce in writing, for publication in the YANKEE FARMER, the most satisfactory history of this insect, describing minutely its habits, its mode of operation, and the surest remedy against its depredations.

The premium will be awarded by the decision of three eminent and experienced agriculturists. Communications on this subject may be addressed to CHARLES P. BOSSON, Publisher, North Market Street, Boston, Mass., or S. W. COLE, Publisher, Middle Street, Portland, Me.

From the New England Farmer.

Indian Wheat.

This is the name applied to a grain, which recently has been brought into notice by its extraordinary productiveness, and of which as inquires are constantly made of us, we propose to give what information we possess.

The plant referred to is, without question, the Tartarian Buck Wheat; or as it is called by others, the Siberian Buckwheat. It belongs to the tribe of the *polygonum* from its many sides; and its name Buck wheat is supposed to be a corruption of Beech Wheat from the resemblance of its seeds to the Beech Mast. The cultivation of this particular kind of Buck Wheat is not new in this country nor in this state. The recent excitement in regard to it seems to have been accidental; its value perhaps being more particularly brought into view by the failure of common Wheat through the grain worm and by rust; and the loss of the Indian Corn by the inclemency of the seasons. This particular kind has been several years cultivated in Pennsylvania; and a beautiful sample of it was brought to us from the north-western parts of that state three years since; but with out any name by which to designate it, or any account of its cultivation or its yield. It has been likewise for several years cultivated successfully in Hampshire County in this State. It was said to have been introduced into Germany a century ago; and within a few years has been cultivated in Great Britain. It is supposed to possess considerable advantages over the kind that has been usually cultivated, not only because it is considerably heavier in the grain, but is generally considered more palatable. It is said to do well even in the poorest soils; is not affected by cold; and being more disposed to branch out and spread its stalks, requires not so much seed for its cultivation as the common kind of buckwheat. Some persons, who have cultivated it demur to the fact of its being more productive; and complain of its flour as being blackish and rather bitter. These differences can only be reconciled by supposing differences in the modes of cultivation; in the nature of the soils, upon which it grows; in the kind of manure employed; in the manner of its being cured, and in the manufacture of the bread itself.

With a view to give the best information we have been able to obtain of its cultivation and history here, we subjoin some extracts from letters received in answer to our inquiries.

"Of its origin, says one of our correspondents, I know nothing; but report says some years since a traveller fed his horse at a public House in a town a few miles north of us (Hartland, Vt.) and that after he left, a few grains were found in the trough in some respects resembling buckwheat; and that these being sown produced the grain now known by the name of Indian Wheat. It produces 30 or 40 bushels to the acre on ordinary land, such as will not bear a good crop of any other grain; and sometimes yields 75 to 100 bushels to the acre."

"Our farmers differ much as to the quantity of seed that should be sown. Some put on a bushel, some not more than eight quarts. I should say from 16 to 25 qts. It may be sown any time till July. It requires from 2 to 3 months to come to maturity; if sown too early it will be in danger from late frosts. About the middle of June is the usual time of sowing here."

"The land should not be too rich. On Common land without manure it succeeds well. Poor sandy land that is not worth cultivating in any other grain produces a fair crop. The ground should be prepared as for rye or oats. If the land be poor it should be left as smooth as possible that the grain may be cradled low; as it generally branches out near the ground especially when sowed thinly or on poor land. The average weight is 48 to 50 lbs. per bushel. It is used for various kinds of bread stuff; also for feeding hogs, horses, cows, &c. When floured as it should be it makes good bread if eaten when new, whether warm or cold. It will mix well with rye and Indian meal for coarse bread. It is thought by some to be equal to corn for fattening hogs, bushel for bushel, but I think this is a mistake. I have known no experiments to test its value. It is fed to horses by some persons, but probably oats by weight are preferable. On the whole I think it a very valuable kind of grain, especially in places where the land is naturally poor or has become exhausted by long continued cultivation."

We have another letter before us, which states; "I suppose the right name of this grain to be Indian Wheat. It has been cultivated a number of years in Vermont, and in some parts of New York; but where it originally came from I cannot tell. I broke up last year about 2 1-8 acres of a piece of pasture land; sowed one bushel and two quarts, and obtained one hundred bushels, which was the greatest yield I have heard of. It has been raised on almost all kinds of land. I sowed

it last year, on the 10th of June. I think it should be gathered when three fourths of the grain are ripe. It will produce from 20 to 25 lbs. of flour per bushel. It is used as an article of food considerably in these times of scarcity, and is much used for fattening swine."

Such are the accounts we have received of the cultivation of this article of produce, which is comparatively new among us. We have been informed on authority on which we rely that it has this year yielded 75 bushels to the acre; but the circumstances under which this product has been obtained, have not come to our knowledge. It would be wrong to calculate upon any such amount as usual or probable. That which we have tested weighed 49 lbs. to the bushel. A farmer with whom we are acquainted, who has used it in his family, has obtained 35 lbs. of flour to a bushel of grain. A grain weighing this much, and yielding in a poor soil, without manure, even 25 or 30 bushels to the acre must be pronounced a valuable acquisition It is advised by some farmers to use it for horses; but one writer says, he has known it to produce a stupefying effect. Young says a bushel goes farther than two bushels of oats In fattening swine it is said that eight bushels of buckwheat will go as far as twelve bushels of barley meal. We give these statements entirely upon the authority of others, having had very partial experience in the use of it for feeding. Buckwheat cakes, which are almost a standing dish in Pennsylvania and Maryland, when well made, and eaten warm, are much esteemed by most people; are deemed nutritious; and have the advantage of not turning acid upon the stomach.

The plant is cultivated in many places extensively for its advantages in feeding Bees; its blossoms containing a large quantity of honey and remaining a long time open, different plants in the same field, and different parts of the same plant opening in flower at different times. One writer says "the *haulm* of Buckwheat is more valuable than clover if cut while in flower." It is of little value as food for animals after the seed has ripened.

One person says he has seen hogs after having eaten heartily of it become so inebriated as to be unable to walk without reeling. How far the use of it for swine would under such circumstances compromit those good men, who have signed the temperance pledge, is a nice question in casuistry, which we shall leave to them to decide. Perhaps they will construe their obligation in this matter as applying to the furnishing the means of intoxicating only to human swine.

On its value as a green dressing and for the purpose of ploughing under; and as a protection of the young wheat, we shall have something to add at a future and more convenient season.

ELECTRO-MAGNETISM IN ILLINOIS.

Is is stated by the Canton Herald, that Mr. M'Pheters of that place, is now erecting a flourishing mill, a castor oil press, and a machine for sawing lumber, all to be propelled by that newly applied and powerful agent—*Electro-Magnetism.* This is said to be the first attempt of the kind in the state of Illinois, and we may add, the first attempt west of the mountains--perhaps in the country. We are gratified to learn of this enterprising spirit in our immediate vicinity. If this mighty power is destined to meet the success which is now anticipated, there is not a section of country in the Union which will realize its influence more extensively than the broad and beautiful prarie lands of the Far West. Water power if we except the application of the current of some of our streams to the spiral wheel and the privilege derived from a few of the rapids, can hardly be considered an agency of much avail in the West. The tread mill of the prairies is a *grinding* concern in every sense of the word—steam is powerful, but expensive in its application, and not always secure from danger—while electro-magnetism, combining all the excellencies of the other motives, is free from many of their deficiencies. It is extremely cheap in application—is attended with none of the dengers of the steam boilor—requires no fuel, and very little space for machinery—is indefinite in its application or power, and so simple in operation that a child may direct its movements. The only arrangement necessary for evolving the power, is slightly acidulated water and alternate plates of zinc and copper, proportioned in number to the force required. We hope the experiment will be a thorough and persevering one: difficulty—partial failure—is incidental to every great undertaking; it should always be anticipated, and should have no other effect than to raise the powers to increased exertion.—*St. Louis Com. Bulletin.*

When you assist the virtuous, you lay an obligation on the whole world.

It signifies nothing to have been generous, if you cease to be so.

CHANGE.

The only thing that is constant; mutability being an immutable law of nature.

TENNESSEE FARMER.

Jonesborough, April 1, 1838.

ERRATA.

In our last number by an omission of two sentences at the close of a short article on the first page, it is left without any point or meaning whatever. By a similar omission of the caption and first paragraph of the article commencing on page 230, we are made to refer to it editorially under a certain head, when no such head is to be found at all. There are evils of greater magnitude, certainly, in this life of vexation, but none of the lesser sort more annoying than thus, to be betrayed into the publication of nonsense.

THE OBJECTS OF AGRICULTURAL PAPERS.

We have greatly misconceived the design of the agricultural periodicals of the day, if one of their leading objects is not to afford the practical farmers of the land an opportunity of communicating and comparing their several methods of tillage—thus embodying the opinions and experience of the whole reading agricultural community for the mutual benefit of all. It is a great fallacy to suppose that, when an individual becomes the editor of an agricultural paper, he necessarily constitutes himself a dictator of opinion and practice to his readers. His opinions, although they may be highly enlightened and judicious, are at last but the opinions of a single individual, and entitled to no more *extra* consideration than his advantageous position for the acquisition of valuable information may justify. The common objection, therefore, to subscribing for an agricultural paper—that he, the objector, knows as much about farming as the editor—is the clearest proof of a deplorable ignorance—ignorance even of the very objects of the publication he rejects.

As the world waxes older and wiser, the useful arts keep pace in their improvement with the progress of society. But these improvements, which are advancing almost daily, are not, perhaps, in themselves more important than the facilities afforded by the periodical press for making them known, with almost magic celerity, to the ends of the earth. Thus an important discovery in farming which, without this aid, would probably be years in travelling beyond the limits of ten square miles, is taken up by the agricultural papers, and circulated throughout the country in the space of a very few days—whilst a distant periodical repays the obligation by recording an equally valuable idea of similar character and destined to a like extensive and rapid circulation. But if all practical farmers were, in surly silence, to keep their discoveries and improvements to themselves, how disastrously would the value of all the agricultural papers of the land be curtailed! and this brings us to the point we had in view in adopting the caption we have placed at the head of this article, and that is an appeal to the patrons of this paper for communications on the various topics connected with the interests of agriculture in our land.

Many of our agricultural exchange papers, from other states, come to us regularly freighted with exceedingly interesting communications embodying a great fund of information, practical and scientific, and constituting a large proportion of the value of those publications. Now could we prevail on our subscribers to yield us a like efficient aid in our labors, the benefits of such an interchange of opinion and experience would redound alike to them and to the general advancement of the great interest it is the object of our little sheet to advocate. Let our patrons then make it if not a matter of patriotism at least of personal interest to enter upon this mutual and unreserved comparison of practice and opinion which cannot fail of the happiest results to all.

In these communications the drapery of highly polished diction is by no means *necessary* though certainly *not unwelcome*. Let no one therefore be deterred from communicating valuable matter which may be in his possession because he may not happen to think his style of writing sufficiently classical. All original communications embodying useful information, will be gladly received and cheerfully inserted in preference to any other matter.

Not to prolong this article, we tender our

thanks to all who have heretofore communicated to our pages, and invite a renewal of their contributions. From the tokens of encouragement which will be found in the present number we are induced to hope that there needs nothing but the above assurance of welcome to secure, for the Farmer, in future, a regular supply of original matter.

A subscriber at Columbia, So. Ca., makes some enquiries of us in relation to cutting up corn, and the adaptation of the practice to a Southern climate. The method, tho' not generally practiced in this region of country, is, when the corn is good, to make a stack of every fifteen hills square tying it towards the top with a pliant stalk, and bending down the tops to protect from the rain. We are not aware of any objection to this method of harvesting corn particularly applicable to a Southern climate. The great object to be secured is the thorough *curing* of the crop; and surely the warm suns of the South would be amply efficient in the attainment of that important point.

THE ROOT CULTURE, ONCE MORE.

At the risque of being thought tedious in our discussion of this subject, we briefly recur to it again. We do so under a settled conviction of its more than ordinary importance to the interests of *all* our farmers.

Some of the correspondents of this paper have been recommending, and with some plausibility, a total change in our staples and whole system of farming. However intrinsically desirable such a revolution might be, we have but little hopes of seeing it accomplished at once, nor would it perhaps be expedient to encounter the great revulsion which the sudden abandonment of long-settled agricultural habits must inevitably produce. Such a radical innovation must be the result of time and deliberation. We are, therefore, well pleased with its discussion now, more especially as there are many indications of its partial adoption, at least, in the culture of silk and also in the growing of the sugar beet. In the cultivation of the grape, which is also thought to be adapted to our climate, we freely confess that we feel no decided interest.—*In this age of sensuality*, surely, the facilities to intemperance are sufficiently numerous, without cheapening the means of indulgence, and multiplying the temptations of the times. We do at all times, sincerely rejoice in the profits and prosperity of the tiller of the soil; but we should certainly *prefer* to rejoice with him when *his* prosperity is consonant with the common good of the whole brotherhood of man

The adoption of the root culture, however, is liable to none of these objections. It involves no great change of system. It would do violence to none of our agricultural habits. It would not at all interfere with our present system of cropping. It might be adopted rather as an appendage to that system, than a change of it; and if afterwards, upon experiment, it was found desirable, as a partial substitute for the corn crop, the transition would be easy, natural, and pleasant. In fact, our farmers need little or no additional information as to the management of Root Crops.—They are already well acquainted with the garden cultivation of Beets, Parsnips and Carrots, and the field culture of Potatoes and Turnips. These are all root crops; but their cultivation as food for farm stock is lamentably rare amongst us. The addition of the Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel and Sugar beet to the list, and their careful and judicious cultivation is what we are exceedingly anxious to see generally and permanently adopted throughout the State.

To be satisfied of the advantages of this system, we need only remember that the average production per acre of most of the root crops may be safely estimated at 800 bushels—double that quantity having been repeatedly produced, and in some instances upwards of 2000 bushels to the acre—that they are healthful & nutritious food for all kinds of farm stock—that, requiring manure, they improve the soil for succeeding crops—that a few acres sufficing for one farm, they leave more land for grass and other productions, than the large corn crop, and consequently save a great

deal of time, toil, and expense—and finally, that they are easy of cultivation, and most of them very sure crops.

These encouraging promises, which those who have tried the system aver have been fully realized in their experience, should certainly so far arrest our attention as to induce an experiment at any rate. And this is, precisely, what we are recommending. Let the system be fairly and patiently tried, and then adopted or abandoned, as its merits may indicate.

THE ACT FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF TIPPLING HOUSES.

From the high commendations bestowed by a Nashville paper, upon the legal sagacity of the Davidson county Court, whose decision adverse to the validity of this act we noticed in our last number, we were led to entertain some apprehensions that it might indeed be inadvertently defective. We are, however, sincerely gratified to be able to state that the Attorney General of this Commonwealth, in a written opinion, has asserted its perfect validity to the full extent of jurisdiction designed by its original projectors and friends. The Circuit Judges are also charging the grand juries to present any cases of the retail of spirituous liquors, as in other cases of open misdemeanor. May it long exist a salutary and efficient act upon our Statute Book!

We have received a prospectus each of the Franklin Farmer (Ky.) the Cultivator, and Genesee Farmer; and will cheerfully forward the names of any who may wish to order either of these valuable publications.

We commend to the attention of our readers the communication of our correspondent "H."—detailing the Virginia system of renching or levelling hilly lands. We believe this method is extensively practiced in he culture of the tobacco as well as the corn crop in that State. We have been informed by an intelligent Virginia planter, that the levelling, when once performed, will require little or no trouble to keep it up for a series of years. The adoption of this plan, especially in the Alpine lands of East Tennessee, would no doubt, add to our corn crop and arrest the ruinous washings of our broken soil. It might also be well adapted to the rolling lands of the Western District, where the soil is light and liable to wash.

At the request of a respected correspondent whose communication will be found on a preceding page, we republish the following receipt from the 7th number of the last volume. We presume it is the one referred to.

From the Farmer's Cabinet.

MURRAIN.

Sir,—If the following remarks, relating to a disease which is considered by a large portion of the community as incurable, be viewed by you of sufficient importance to entitle them to a place in your paper, when convenient please publish them.

There are two processes recommended for the cure of the *Murrain* in cattle; one of them is to give the animal one pint of spirits of turpentine, and in 24 hours afterwards, a pint of olive oil or hog's lard; in 48 hours afterward half a pint of turpentine, and in 24 hours after this, half a pint of olive oil or hog's lard.

The other is to give a pint of flaxseed oil, and in 12 hours after two pounds of glauber salts, followed immediately by repeated doses of warm water, for ten or twelve hours.

Note. Perhaps all those combined would be still better, (the quantity of each ingredient to be such as experience may dictate,) as acting more quickly on different parts of the system. It seems the symptoms of this disease are not generally discovered until within a short time previous to the death of the animal, which soon ensues, unless arrested by medical aid;—consequently such substances as tend to restore the system to a healthy state the most rapidly, combined with other substances, to prevent injury to the animal, seems proper. A.

Chester co. Pa., Feb. 23. 1837.

THE OAT.

The oat, *Avena sativa* of the naturalist, is a grain very useful, and better adapted to a nothern climate than any other plant that has been used for bread. It is chiefly confined to the more moist and cool portions of the American and European continents, being scarcely known in the South of France, Italy or Spain; or in tropical countries. Of all the cultivated grains, oats are the easiest of culture, and the most certain and prolific in its product.—The varieties of oats are very numerous, and some of them are very distinctly marked, and

as in the case of wheat, there seems no reason why new varieties may not be produced at pleasure.

In the sowing of oats less regard may be had to soil than with any other grain; the only requisite seems to be that it shall not be too wet. Tenacious clays, or poor gravel, where scarcely any seed bearing plant will grow, will produce a crop of oats, if ploughed at the proper season, and the seed of good quality and judiciously put in. "The best oats both in quantity and quality, are those which succeed grass; indeed no kind of grain seems better qualified by nature for foraging upon grass land than oats; as a full crop is usually obtained in the first instance, and the land left in good order for succeeding ones."—(British Husbandry.)

It should always be remembered, that early sown oats, as well as spring wheat and barley, are always heavier and of better quality, than late sown ones, and as a general rule, all spring grains should be put into the ground as early as the soil can be prepared for their reception.

Oats require and receive no after culture, unless it may sometimes become necessary to go over the field and pull such weeds as threaten to over-run the plant, or prove injurious by seeding to after crops. There are few of the plants cultivated as grain, so little liable to injury from insects or disease as the oat. The wire worm sometimes attacks the plant in the ground, and we have in one or two instances detected the worm that is now proving so injurious to wheat, in the oat.—The disease to which the oat is most liable is the smut. This may in general be prevented by sowing seed of good quality and putting it in when the ground is dry and in good tilth. According to Loudon, liming oats or barley, which is so effectual in destroying smut on wheat, is useless. This may perhaps be owing to the husk, which prevents the immediate contact of the alkali with the kernel. Would not soaking the seed in lime water obviate this difficulty and secure the plant against the disease? The mode of preventing the ravages of the wire worm practiced in Europe, is to plough the land immediately before sowing. If in the grass, the worm is thus turned under, and before it works its way to the surface the grain is beyond its reach. In this country, late ploughing, by exposing the larvæ and eggs of insects to the action of frost, has been found one of the most effectual means of their destruction.

The great danger to which late sown oats are exposed, is, the being overtaken with frost before the grain is ripened. The result is an inferior light grain, unfit for seed, and of little value for meal. The great difference of weight between a good and poor oat lies principally in the weight of meal as the husk of the inferior oat is equal to that of the ripe one. Fortunately frost bitten oats are easily detected. The Rev. Mr. Furquharson observes in the 19th vol. of the Farmer's Magazine, "that every oat kernel when stripped of the husk will be found to exhibit the appearance of a groove on one side. If the bottom of the groove has a clear translucent appearance from end to end; if it is not much shrunk into the substance of the kernel; and if the kernel splits with difficulty in its direction; then we may pronounce the vital part of the seed to be safe from the action of frost. If on the contrary, there is a black speck seen in the groove at the root end of the kernel; if the groove cuts deep into the kernel, so that it may be split in that direction; and if, when so split, the blackness accompanied with a rotten scaly appearance, is seen extending from end to end at the bottom of the groove, then the vital part, or future plant may be pronounced as being entirely unfit for seed."

Oats are extensively used for human food in Scotland and some parts of England, and in some few instances during the past season, oats were used in this country. But they are generally cultivated almost exclusively for horses, there being no grain which agrees with this useful animal so well, or which can be so cheaply furnished. Oats cut when in rather a green state, and well cured, fed to sheep or calves without threshing, in small daily quantities, have been highly recommended by some intelligent and practical farmers. A mixture of oats and peas sown together, at the rate of two bushels of the former and one of the latter to the acre has been adopted by some farmers, and considered as preferable to clean oats for feeding. The mixture requires grinding of course, and must be better when required for mixing with boiled food for swine, than oats alone. The trouble of harvesting must operate as a drawback on this mode of culture, as the crop is almost invariably 'lodged,' and as it can neither be raked as peas, nor cradled as oats, it must be cut up with a scythe, which is ususally a tedious and wasteful process. The quantity of oats grown in the State of New York is immense. It has been estimated that the crop in Onondaga county alone, will, for the year 1837, fall not much short of one million of bushels.—*Genesee Farmer.*

ON PLOUGHS AND PLOUGHING.

In the October fair of the American Institute at New York, several ploughs were offered for premiums, or as specimens of workmanship, and after a trial of their merits the medal was awarded to Mr. Dutcher. In receiving the prize, Mr. D., in compliance with a regulation of the Institute, presented a brief sketch of what he deemed the theory of ploughs and ploughing, evincing much good sense, and explaining the causes why many ploughs perform well at one rate of motion, that are worthless and ineffectual at another. Mr. D. says:

"I will just advert to a ploughing match which was got up by the Agricultural Society of Greene, in this state. On that occasion the premium was to be given to the plough that would plough the most ground in one hour, and do it the best. A very fair proposition to be sure—the poorest beat the best. Let us see how this can be. In order to plough the most in an hour, the team was driven to its utmost speed. A plough constructed to throw the furrow right at a speed a team could continue through the day, put in rapid motion, would give an extra impulse to the furrow, deranging it and throwing it twice over. But the plough that was good for nothing at the common speed, letting half the furrow fall back, at this extra speed threw the furrow well. A plough which would require such speed throughout the day it is evident must be wrong in its construction. Let it be remembered that the speed of ploughs has much to do with the performance of the work; yet managers of ploughing matches often test the ploughs without regard to this consideration.

"Without arrogating to myself any knowledge superior to that which all men should have in their profession, I will here lay down some principles which I consider essential in the plough. In order to do this to advantage, I will introduce some reasonings of English writers on the subject. They give it as their opinion, that a heavy plough is preferable to a light one, on the supposition that the more weight in a plough, the easier it overcomes resistance when in motion.

"Now, if the resistance the plough meets with was not as constant as its motion, but only occasionally, or at intervals, like a sawmill, where the power is laid out only one half of the time, permitting the plough to accelerate its motion during the suspension of resistance, then the argument would have some force. But the resistance to the plough is continual. The question may be asked, does not increased weight require increased strength to keey it in motion? I answer, yes. Therefore all the weight a plough has, more than its strength requires, is a dead loss. The conclusion, therefore, is that a plough should be as light as its strength will permit.

"Another principle to be kept in view in the construction of a plough is its durability. Some parts are more exposed to wear than others. All these should be so made that they can be replaced, when worn, with the least trouble.

"Another principle is, that all that portion of the plough called the running part, and which is most subject to wear, should be made of cast iron, the most suitable metal now known for the plough ordinarily used. * * In the western praries, wrought iron may be the most suitable, where a share kept to an edge for cutting the large grass roots is required,—the ploughman having to keep a file with him for that purpose.

"The use, of coulters is too much disregarded by farmers generally; and when it is used, it is often very improperly placed by manufacturers, most of whom have not had sufficient practice, to construct this important implement on correct principles. The coulters are set with their points inclining towards the land a little, so as to cut under the surface sod. This is a great mistake; it should be set so as to cut the furrow one quarter or half an inch wider at the top than at the bottom; this will admit the furrow slice to rise easier without banking the edge."

These principles of construction will we think commend themselves to every farmer, who is in the habit of noticing the movement of his plough. English ploughs are usually enormously heavy, compared with the best ploughs in this country, and for particular purposes have reached the weight of 400 pounds, requiring six horses. In finish, and adjustment of parts, English ploughs have altogether the advantage of ours; theirs seem to be made on the principle of putting all the labor possible upon them—ours on that of putting as little as possible. They seem to aim at weight,, we at lightness; perhaps in both the respects of finish and weight take lessons of each other with mutual advantage. That a plough can be constructed, adapted to all kinds of work, few will pretend; but all ploughs can be constructed on correct principles, and finished in such a manner as to strength and durability; with lightness and ease of working. There is no farming implement on which more is depending than

on the plough, and perhaps none which is so frequently got up in so blundering and unscientific a manner. The last 20 years has witnessed a vast improvement in ploughs, but the manufacturer should remember what the farmer well knows, that there is room for greater improvement still, and direct his genius and skill to the supplying the deficiency.

From the Genesee Farmer.

ALPINE FARMERS.—The farmers of the upper Alps, though by no means wealthy, live like lords, in their houses; while the heaviest portion of the labor which is performed, devolves upon the wife. It is no uncommon thing to see a woman yoked to a plough with an ass, while the husband guides it. He accounts it an act of politeness to lend his wife to his neighbor who is oppressed with work, and the neighbor reciprocates the favor when needed.

COMFORTS OF THE POOR.—The poor man has his wife and his children about him — and what has the rich man more?—He has the same enjoyment of their society, the same solicitude for their welfare, the same pleasure in their good qualities, improvement, and success, their connection with him is as strict and intimate, their attachment as strong, their gratitudes warm. I have no propensity to envy any one—least of all, the rich and great; but, if I were disposed to this weakness, the subject of my envy would be a healthy young man in full possession of strength and faculties; going forth in a morning to work for his wife and children, or bringing to them his wages at night.

How to save in little Matters.—Procure a book and keep an exact account of all your expenditures. At the expiration of 3 months, review the account and see how much you have expended in four penny and nine penny items which you could have done without as well as not. Then see to it that each ensuing quarter shall be minus just those things. In many cases the aggregate would be found more considerable than you would be aware of, unless you kept such an account.

SHORT SAYINGS—Avoid an angry man for a while, a malicious one forever.

Oblivion is the cure of injuries.

He is every day condemned, who is always in fear.

He who flies from the law, cannot fly from conscience.

PROFITABLE GARDENING.

MR. SAYWARD:—Although a mechanic,* I have paid a little attention to agriculture for the last two years, and I thought it might not be uninteresting to your readers to know, that the lands of Penobscot, when properly cultivated, will yield as abundant an increase, as any of the western lands, of which so much is said of the fertility. The piece of land which I cultivated for vegetables the past season, contains by measurement, one acre and ten square rods. It was cleared in the spring of '35, and the stump grubbed in the fall, but I had many green roots to contend with this year. The land was ploughed in good season, and a tolerable dressing with manure, (not extra) and the seed, planted in season, and good care taken that no weeds should sap the ground, and I give below the result of the harvest, with the prices of the vegetables as they are now worth.

200 bushels potatoes worth 40 cent per bushel,	$80,00
50 bushels dug early for market and family use, at 60 cts. per bushel,	30,00
150 bushels ruta bagas at 40 cts.	90,00
40 " carrots, at 50 "	20,00
20 doz. cabbages fit for market 1,00	20,00
20 " " worth '50	10,00
8 bushels blood beets at 5s	6,67
5 " parsnips at 5s	4,17
20 " cucumbers at 6s	20,00
20 doz. summer squash at 40 cts.	8,00
800 lbs. winter " at 9s cwt.	12,00
10 bushels mangle wurtzels at '30	3,00
10 " string and shell beans 4s	6,67
100 roots of celery worth at 4 cts.	4,00
sold early green peas to the amount	9,00
" " radishes "	4,00
100 hills of early corn for family use, averaging four ears to the hill, worth in market, 12 1-2 cents per dozen	4,13
Different kinds of garden seeds raised if bought at the seed store would cost	8,00
Lettuce and other vegetables for salads, for family use—say	2,00
	$341,65

I might have sold from 4 to 5 lbs. of summer savory, and about as much balm, and a supply of sage, safron, and hysop and caraway, for family use, for which your readers may judge for their value. J BROWN.

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* John, thou art a good mechanic, and hast proved thyself a good farmer also. We trust many others will follow thy worthy example.—ED.

[*Mechanic & Farmer.*

From the Asiatic Journal.

HUMAN FOOD.

When man is considered with reference only to his intellectual part, it is not without reason that he is styled by Shakspeare, "the beauty of the world—the paragon of animals." A being that is able in some degree, to scan the work of creation—that can measure the globe on which he lives, and calculate the motion of the mighty orbs which roll in the immensity of space—that has subjugated the elements to his use, and made fire, air and water his vassals, may be said to be "in apprehension, like a god." To bring down our admiration of this "paragon" to a juster standard, however, it is unnecessary to enter upon an estimate of his moral imperfections—the specks which darken and disfigure the brightness of his understanding—it is sufficient to contemplate him in his animal character, in order to see how nearly, with all his intellectual pretensions, he is allied to the brutes.—How mortifying is it to human vanity to think that there is scarcely any species of matter, animal or vegetable, in any state of immaturity or corruption, which is not eaten by the human animal, and capable of assimilating with his substance, and thus forming an integral part of the compound machine of mind and matter called man! Mr. Donovan, in his treatise on domestic economy, has devoted a portion of the last volume to the subject of human food, and has enumerated the various substances, animal and vegetable, which constitute, or have constituted it, amongst different nations. A more disgusting catalogue it is scarcely possible to read.

In his "account of animals used as food by the various nations of the world," he finds it convenient to arrange them in a natural order beginning with man himself. It has been long doubted, he observes, whether human beings could feed on their fellow-creatures for the mere sake of the flesh, without any other incentive; but it has been incontrovertibly established, that man will devour man as his ordinary food, and often with a high relish; that feasts of human flesh are resorted to as sources of animal gratification; that the cannibal has not only his favorite parts of the human body, but prefers certain modes of cookery. Our own ancestors were of the number of these horrible epicures. Diodorus Siculus charges the Britons of Iris with being anthropophagi; and St. Jerome (who lived so late as the fifth century of the christian era) accuses a British tribe, from his own personal knowledge, not only with a partiality for human flesh, but a fastidious taste for certain delicate parts of it. Not only in Polynesia, but in Africa, human flesh is still consumed as ordinary food; and Stedman states that, in the interior of the African continent, human limbs are hung up on shambles for sale, like butchers' meat in Leadenhall market.

This is revolting enough; but it is little less offensive to consider the other animal food which serves to allay the undistinguishing voracity of man. Monkeys are esteemed delicate eating; the Chevalier de Marchais says, that in South America, monkey flesh is allowed to be nourishing and very delicate. The heads are made into soup, and are served with it; and although a person at first experiences some difficulty in accustoming himself to seeing heads which resemble those of little children; when this repugnance is once conquered, he finds that monkey-soup is as good as any other." Amongst other animals the following are eaten in different parts of the world: bats and vampires, the sloth, the rhinoceros, the elephant, the seal tribe, the dog, the wolf, the foul jackall, the voracious hyena, the rank fox, the fœtid skunk, the cat, the rat, the hedgehog, the camel, the horse, the ass, the tiger, the lion, the whale, the shark, the crocodile, lizards, frogs, the *boa constrictor*, (which is preferred by the negroes to any other food) the rattle-snake, the viper, or adder. Mr. Donovan might have added to his list of nations who are serpent-eaters, the Chinese, who fatten snakes as we do oysters, for the table.

More discrimination appears to be used in the insect tribe. A peculiarly disgusting insect is eagerly devoured by the Chinese and Hottentots; caterpillars are cooked into a dish in some parts of Australia, and the people of New Caledonia eat spiders. Ants and their eggs are eaten by several nations, and this kind of diet has been eulogised by Europeans who have partaken of it. In some parts of the East Indies, it is said that vast quantities of termites are collected and made with flour into a variety of pastry; but an inordinate use of this food occasions colic, dysentery and death. Mr. Smeathman states that the Africans eat these ants roasted by handfuls, and several Europeans have declared that they are most delicious—like sugared cream or paste of sweet almonds. Locusts are eaten in almost all the countries where they appear, either fried, pounded with milk, ground into flour, and baked into cakes, or made into soup.

Of fishes and birds, there appears to be scarcely any excluded; and Mr. Donovan observes that, "although particular animals have been reported by travellers to constitute the

food of nations whose history they write, we might perhaps extend the catalogue to all living creatures, with the exception of a few that are known to be actually poisonous."

The object of Mr. Donovan was merely to detail those articles which were the ordinary food of large classes of men. But there are many, of a disgusting kind, which he has not thought it necessary to notice, which are the ordinary aliment, or delicacies, amongst nations. The Cochin-Chinese are fond of hatched eggs, the Chinese and other eastern people of putrid eggs. There are nations of dirt-eaters—the Ottomans, for instance, who diet upon clay. Worms, grubs, and maggots are the food of others. The Dyaks and Battaks of Sumatra and Borneo drink human blood. Raw blubber is prized by the Esquimaux, and game in a state of putrefaction gratifies the palate of the polished European gourmand.

When we select instances of peculiar and depraved appetite, they are disgusting indeed. We have seen individuals in Europe who can devour vast quantities of raw liver, tallow candles, and tobacco pipes; but what are they to the eaters of carrion, putrid offal, and excrementitious substances amongst the religious ascetics of India!

Perhaps the most repulsive, as well as prodigious, instance of outrageous voracity, is the sheep-eater of Oude, described by General Hardwicke, in the '*Transactions* of the Royal Asiatic Society.' This man, or rather monster, in the presence of several gentlemen and *ladies*, ate, at one meal, two sheep, one weighing from twelve to thirteen pounds per quarter. His mode of devouring the animals was this: He seized the live sheep by the fleece with his teeth, and lifted it from the ground; then by a swing of his head flung it on its back upon the ground. In this position he held the animal down, pulling the legs apart with each hand. He then tore the abdomen with his teeth, by stripping off the skin from the flank to the breast, removed the intestines, and buried his head in the body to drink the warm blood, which clotted round his hair and beard. He next stripped off the rest of the hide, separated the joints, and, rubbing them in the dust, tore the meat from the bones, swallowing one mouthful after another with all the dust and dirt adhering to it, laying aside the ill-picked bones for his supper!

The cruelty which this indiscriminate voracity of man inflicts upon the inferior animals, is frightful. The horrors of the Roman kitchen are detailed in Mr. Donovan's book. Vitellus and Heliogabalus regaled on a dish composed of the tongues and brains of peacocks, the bodies being thrown to the hogs. The combs torn from live cocks were a dish of exquisite relish to the latter, because seasoned with cruelty. The heads of parrots were served up at his feasts. Vitellus had a large silver dish, the filling of which, for one of his entertainments, occasioned wholesale slaughter, being composed of insignificant parts of various small and rare birds and fishes. Vedius Pollio, a gentleman of Rome, and a favorite of Augustus Cæsar, contrived a method of giving a flavor to lampreys, which all his friends, and Augustus himself, highly relished, whilst a secret; it was by feeding them on human flesh! One Claudius Æsopus, a tragedian, was renowned for serving up, on a large platter, worth 4,800*l.* all kinds of singing and speaking birds. At a feast given to Vitellus by his brother Lucius, there were 2,000 different kinds of fish, and 7,000 of birds. The celebrated Apicius expended nearly a million sterling on his kitchen, and finding his property reduced to only 80,000*l*, fearful that he should starve, he took poison. A small dish of his, called *minutal apicianum*, or Apicius's Mince,' is made up of the excerpts of three or four dozen animals. But cruelty in the kitchen did not cease when Apicius administered to himself the salutary draught. His successors have caught his spirit. Dr. Kitchner quotes from Wecker's '*Secrets of Nature*' "How to roast and eat a goose alive." The goose, after being plucked, is to be surrounded by burning fuel, and cups of water are to be placed within the circle: "she is to be larded and basted; but she is to be roasted slowly. By walking about, and flying here and there, being cooped in by the fire that stops her way out, she will not fail to drink the water, and cool her heart; and when she roasteth and consumes inwardly, always wet her head and heart with a wet sponge; and when you see her giddy with running, and begins to stumble, she is roasted enough. Take her up, set her before her guests, and she will cry as you cut off any part from her, and be be almost eaten up before she is dead: *it is mighty pleasant to behold!*"

After reading this, what a satirist does Shakspeare seem, in the passage from which we quoted at the beginning!

Mr. Milton A. Lusk of Hudson O., raised 150 bushels of Rutabagas from twenty three rods of ground, equal to 1043 bushels to the acre. The seed was sown broad cast, about first of July, and nothing further done to them until they were harvested, except weeding them which took half a day.—*Buckeye Plough-Boy.*

SELECTION OF SEEDS.—A Mr. Garrison, of Kentucky, in an article written for the American Farmer, says "having for many years observed that some pumpkin, watermelon and squash vines ran 10, 12 and 15 feet before any fruit appeared, and that others would have fruit before they had run half that distance, I concluded that there was a natural reason for its being so. I therefore took a cucumber and split it lengthwise and sub-divided it into three equal parts across the fruit, and kept the seeds carefully apart. Those on the end near the vine I marked Butt seeds: those from the centre, Middle seeds, and those from the end on which the bloom grew, Top seeds. These I planted separately on new ground well manured, I carefully attended to three hills from each part of the fruit divided as stated above, the hills about 12 feet apart. All the plants were alike flourishing; the vines from the butt seeds ran from four to six feet before fruit appeared: and these were small with a neck. The vines from the middle seeds were from four to six feet before fruit appeared; the vines were better without a neck, and fourfold. The vines from the top seeds produced fruit, large, fine and in abundance, and the first fruit was on the third joint of the vine from the surface of the ground. I have continued to save seed from the top or bloom end, and now have cucumbers on the first and second joints."—*Boston Recorder.*

List of payments for the Tennessee Farmer, from 22nd Feb., 1838, to 2nd April, 1838.

R. Armstrong 1; J. Love 1; S. Morrow 1; R. McClintock 1; H. Morrison 1; J. F. Bell 1; C. Lea 1; R. Snead 1; Dr. H. H. Toland 1; S. McCrosky 1; D. Kelsoe 1; W. Hill 2; H. L. Crucker 1; D. F. Wade 1; D. Wilson 1; C. M. Ore 1; J. K. Hamilton 1; J. G. Walker 2; J. H. Houze 1; T. Thornton 1; J. J. Mars 1; J. C. McEwen 1; A. Giles 5; T. Davis 1; E. Massey 1; J. D. Donnel 1; J. Donnel 1; J. W. Alexander 1; P. Ketring 1; W. J. Douglass 1; Maj. Y. N. Douglass 1; A. Standfield 1; Maj. W. S. Miller 1; 50; A. H. Ford 1; N. Ford 2; H. Buchanan 1; F. M. Easterly 1; W. Peoples 1; S. C. Smartt 1; Dr. J. Wright 1; A. Alkridge 1; J. Boreing 1; W. Stephens 3; G. G. Reed 1; C. P. Ninney 1; Col. J. Stuart 1; W. Harriss 1; G. Nicholson 1; Rev. J. Carll 1; H. P. Hildreth 1; S. A. Hunt 1; Dr. J. McCale 1; D. Seay 1; E. Harriss 1; J. Turner 1; T. J. Hubbard 1; S. P. Black 1; Dr. G. Thompson 1; Rev. E Magowan 1; S. R. Rucker 2; Mrs. S. Harrisson 2; B. M. Milton 2; W. D. Baird 2; W. D. Nelson 1; J. Lyttle 3; H. Odem 1; C. J. Guinn 1; R. King 1; J. Hassel 1; J. Walton 1; J. G. Turnner 1; W. Watson 1; M. Carter 1; S. P. Bernard 1; N. J. Long 1; J. Newman 2; S. Cocke 2; J. W. Hale 2; J. Matcaff 1; Dr. H. W. Walker 1; J. McDowell 1; W. H. Walton 2; J. C. Bynum 1; W. Whitesides 1; W. Sanders 1; A. G. Ward 1; W. Williamson 1; P. Dismukes 1; T. G. Loves 1; J. W. Tate 1; J. Y. Smith 1; W. Francis 1; Col. J. Catey 1; Dr. Cochran 1; Col. Smith 1; A. W. Bumpass 1; Rev. T. Smith 1; R. Alexander 1; T. Mace 1; D. Buford 1 50, J. Gordon 1; Rev. G. Jones 1; J. M. Cotney 1; B. Isbell 1; J. Cowan 2, J. Patton 2; R. Owing 1; F. T. Martin 1; J. Skillen 1; D. Maxwell 2; N. Malone 1; L. Hayne 1; T. M. Patterson & Fite 1; H. Bogle 1; A. Bogle 1; Rev. M. D. Thomason 1; T. J. Parkam 1; W. M. Rose 3; J. Lutton 4; T. A. Bell 1; J. Fawber 1; S. Black 1; T. Hunter 1; W. Clayton 1; Q. D. Mayfield 1; C. McGrue 1; W. C. Mayfield 1; J. Morris 1; J. McJill 1; W. A. McGill 1; A. Wiseonaunt 1; J. Caldwell 1; J. White 1; H. J. Anderson 1; P. Lyttle 2; R. Henderson 2; H. Burton 2; M. D. Anderson 1; W. Parker 1; H. Young 2; O. Harriss 1; R. M. Aycock 1; J. T. Storey 1; J. F. Beavers 1; P. Shute 1; J. Murray 1; W. P. Waltor 1; W. S. Perrey 1; J. Dordon 1; R. D. Carr 1; J. Dortch 1; R. E. Hughes 1; W. H. Blackwell 1; S. Blackwell 1; S. Rayland 1; W. Heiskell 2; A. L. Gammon 1; J. Marshall 1; M. C. Rogers 1; S. Rogers 1; B. G. Hilt 4; J. W. Grisham 1; A. Lawson 1; Rev. J. W. Jones 1; T. Jones 1; S. Shaw 1; W. Ivey 1; W. M. Irvine 50 cts; N. G. Alexander 1; W. T. Walters 1; I. P. Seay 50 cts; S. Walters 1; A. Neal 1; W. Boyd 1; D. Smith 1; S. Davis 1; J. Young 1; J. Smith 1; J. B. Briant 1; S. Stonecypher 1; R. Roberts 1; J. Steel 1; J. Robinson 1; G. Emmet 3; M. M. Anderson 2.

ADDITIONAL AGENTS.—G. HASKINS—Lanefield, Haywood ct'y., Ten.
ALPHORA YOUNG—Bagdad, Ten.